



MEDIA RELEASE

Tucson Fire Department

Fire Chief Dan Newburn



Contact: Captain Trish Tracy
Public Information Office

Date: April 2008

30 – 360 Circle of Safety

It's that time of year when the weather warms up and the kids play outside. So Tucson Fire wants to remind you to look before you back out of your driveway.

A toddler was struck over the weekend in a mobile home park on Romero Road. Tucson Police say a father backed over his one year old with his pickup truck. The child is hospitalized with a ruptured eardrum.

Now the Tucson Fire Department is pushing a simple program to try to make sure yesterday's accident doesn't happen again.

The three year old doesn't worry about Tracy backing over him or his two brothers. But Tracy does. She says, "Every single time I come out of my house they come running over."

So Tracy says she makes a habit of "taking 30 to do a 360." Before she gets in her car, she does what she calls a walk around circle for safety.

Tracy explains, "Start from one end of the car and walk around the vehicle. Look underneath. Make sure that you don't see any children or animals or objects. It takes about 30 seconds."

Aiden's mom is glad Tracy does it. She wishes more drivers would.

Tracy says not looking can be a fatal mistake. Last year in this country 60 children were killed in their own driveways by their parents.

Tucson Fire regularly teaches safety classes in schools. Tracy says the department is considering adding to its curriculum its walk around circle for safety.

---End---